

## MECA Admitted to PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program

Offering potential donors a tax break in exchange for their contribution is an excellent way for a non-profit to bolster contributions and MECA has recently added a valuable fund raising program to its toolbox that does just that.

In December, MECA was notified that it was accepted into the **PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program** as a scholarship foundation. A special thanks goes out to Jim O'Brien for his work in getting us through the three month application process.

For business owners in Pennsylvania, the EITC Program is a great way to maximize their contributions to their favorite charities while reducing their tax liability. Businesses authorized to do business in Pennsylvania who are subject to one or more of seven PA taxes (see box ) are eligible to participate in the program. Contributions made to an approved organization create tax credits for the business. These tax credits may be applied against the tax liability of a business for the tax year in which the contribution was made. The contributor will receive a 75 percent tax credit off the top of their state income tax bill. They can increase that tax credit to 90 percent of their donation if they commit to making the same contribution for two consecutive

**If your business pays any of these state taxes you are eligible for the EITC program.**

- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Capital Stock Franchise Tax
- Bank and Trust Company Shares Tax
- Title Insurance Companies Shares Tax
- Insurance Premiums Tax
- Mutual Thrift Institution Tax
- Personal Income Tax of S corporation shareholders
- Personal Income Tax of Partnership partners

years. That's a major incentive to many donors with only a little bite to their wallet.

Banks, title-insurance companies, and large corporations use these programs heavily to direct contributions, but businesses of EVERY SIZE can benefit from this program. For small businesses it's a great way to maximize their charitable contributions.

**Do you own a small business? Do you work for a company that might be looking for a new tax credit?**

If you have a small business or you work for a business or corporation that would like more information about participating in the EITC Program, contact Jim at the school. We can send you more details about getting your company involved in this GREAT fund raising program for the school.

Becoming a donor is easy.

A single-page form enrolls any eligible business in the program. And after the contribution has been made, MECA will provide the business with the information required to take advantage of the tax credit.

## PAAL RECYCLING PROGRAM SET TO EXPAND EARLY IN 2009

The PAAL Recycling Program got underway several months ago with the delivery of a 10 cubic yard Paper Retriever container to the Education Center by the Abitibi Company. Since then, staff members, families and neighboring businesses have been 'feeding' the distinctive green and yellow Paper Retriever bin.

The program is now set to begin an exciting new phase - a full-scale recycling program / micro business for one of our community partners - Brandywine Hospital. In the next few weeks, additional Paper Retriever bins will be delivered to the hospital and bright blue recycling bins will begin to appear throughout the hospital. This will be the hospital's FIRST recycling program and we are thrilled that they have selected PAAL to be their partners in their efforts to "Go Green".

On a regular schedule, PAAL students - working under the direction of our staff - will collect recyclable paper from throughout the hospital and take it to the Paper Retriever bins located on the hospital grounds. These jobs will provide endless opportunities to acquire social and navigation skills and the money we make from the recycling will allow for salaries for the students!

The campaign called - **Be a PAAL, Recycle Now!** - is expected to be fully operational by early 2009.